



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Chief Information Officer**

Washington, D.C. 20230

NOV 21 2005

Ms. Lorraine D. Hunt  
Administrative Assistant  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Hunt:

The Department of Commerce fiscal year 2005/2006 consolidated Information Collection Budget (ICB) submission is enclosed. This submission contains the following requested information, which is being sent to you electronically:

- Appendix A - Update on Commerce Initiative to Reduce Paperwork Burden.
- Appendix B (in four parts) - Commerce spreadsheet (parts 1-3) containing the specific ICB information for 2005 and projections for 2006 and text information describing Commerce significant burden changes (part 4).
- Appendix C - Violations, Commerce had no violations.

The Commerce CIO community is committed to the principles of the President's Management Agenda for e-government. The Commerce Information Technology Review Board has specific criteria to evaluate projects on their effectiveness in seeking new opportunities for using technology to make processes affecting the public electronic wherever possible.

The Census Bureau continues to make progress implementing the Automated Export System and reducing the number of paper Shippers Export Declarations (SEDs) received from a one-time high of 500,000 per month to the current 55,000 per month. These improvements are largely due to the success of *AESDirect*, the Web-based, e-government application for submitting SEDs. Details are in Appendix A.

Appendix B projects a 27 percent increase for fiscal year 2006 in burden hours due primarily to the collections required for conducting the 2007 Economic Census. Burden costs are increasing by over 50 percent due to patent maintenance fee increases and a revised fee structure for international patent applications.

In the coming year, Commerce will continue to drive home the principles of e-government and promote the use of information technology to reduce the burden on the public in our information collections activities. As the Commerce CIO, I have made a key commitment to these goals.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this submission, please contact Diana Hynek at 202-482-0266 or [dhynek@doc.gov](mailto:dhynek@doc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Pyke, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas N. Pyke, Jr.

Enclosures